CANTERBURY REGIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

EXPLANATORY PAMPHLET

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. ESTABLISHED

As the Christchurch Regional Planning Authority the Authority was first established by Gazette notice in June 1955. The area was extended by Gazette notice in 1958. The area was further extended and the name changed to "Canterbury" by Gazette notice in February 1974.

2. STATISTICS (April 1974)

i) Total population 324,000 (estimated) being the largest region in the South Island and third largest in New Zealand.

ii) Total area 9,545 square kilometres (3,685 square miles).

iii) Population of Main Urban Area 265,000 (estimated).

iv) Area of Built-up area 140 square kilometres (54 square miles).

v) Population Growth (present regional area).

Census Year	Population	Average Annual Percentage Increase
1945	179412	
1951	205051	2.25 (1945-51)
1956	227928	2.14 (1951-56)
1961	257066	2.44 (1956-61)
1966	286189	2.17 (1961-66)
1971	306041	1.35 (1966-71)

3. PRESENTATION

Local Bodies(Councils)	Percentage of Population (1973)	Representation
Christchurch City	53.3	5
Riccarton Borough	2.3	1
Rangiora Borough	1.6	1
Kaiapoi Borough	1.4	1
Lyttelton Borough	1.0	1
Waimairi County	20.6	3
Paparua County	9.3	2
Heathcote County	2.5	1
Ellesmere County	2.4	1
Malvern County	2.0	1
Rangiora County	1.3	1
Eyre County	0.9	1
Oxford County	0.5	1
Akaroa County	0.5	1
Mt.Herbert County	0.2	1
Wairewa County	0.2	1
	100	23

There are 42 members on the Authority but only the 23 Council nominations have voting rights. The remaining 19 are nominations from other local authorities, Government departments and Chairmen of Advisory Committees.

4. ORGANISATION

The Authority meets two-monthly, and its Committees and their sub-committees, most of which meet monthly, are:-

Administrative Committee
Technical Liaison Committee
Air Pollution Committee
Summit Road Advisory Committee

The Authority may at any time provide a special committee in the interests of the Region as a whole. From time to time special sub-committees are appointed.

5. STAFF

The Director of Planning is the Chief Executive Officer and planning adviser. The total staff establishment is 22, comprising Assistant Director of Planning, 3 planning officers, 2 traffic engineers, 11 planning assistants, the Secretary and 3 shorthand-typists.

6. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY

Broadly, the functions of the Authority in terms of the Act are:-

i) To prepare, and keep under review, a regional planning scheme. The Act requires that all public bodies shall adhere to the provisions of any regional planning scheme that is operative in their districts.

ii) To make recommendations about the preparation of the district schemes of its constituent councils and where necessary to lodge objections and appeals concerning any provision in a district scheme.

iii) To advise or make recommendations on any matters relative to the operation of the regional scheme or of district planning schemes.

iv) To assist generally in all matters relative to town and country planning.

It may also act as planning consultant, or provide planning services, by agreement or payment, to any local authority.

There is a belief that the Authority is a deciding body, a final board on all planning issues. The Authority is, of course, an advisory body only, required to put forward its views, in accordance with laid down procedures, and to make recommendations. Decisions on matters both District and Regional are made by councils, or independent arbitration where the Act provides for this.

7. WORK OF THE AUTHORITY

This is best explained by listing the significant dates since the Authority was established.

1956 First Regional land use study.
1957 Transport studies commenced.
1958 Region extended to include two more councils.
1958 Regional Planning Scheme, Section One - Rural Area recommended.
1959 Regional Planning Scheme, Section One became operative.
1959 Traffic Surveys for Master Transportation Plan.
1960 Air Pollution Surveys commenced.
1961 Land Use Survey partial revision.
1962 Recommendation of Outline Master Transportation Plan.
1963 Summit Road Protection Act.
1964 Outline Master Transportation Plan confirmed following consideration of comments and criticisms.
1965 First Scheme Plans for Motorways and Regional Road Network.
1966 Air Pollution Report.

1967 Eight Policy Reports comprising the Regional Master Plan.
1967 The Planning studies related to the policy reports and the review of Section One - Rural Zone.
1968 The further development of scheme plans for major road improvements of the Master Transportation Plan.
1968 Regional Planning Scheme, Section One - 10 year Review recommended.
1969 Regional Planning Scheme, Section Two - Communications recommended.
1969 The review of the basic data of the first Master Transportation studies commenced in 1958.
1971 Regional Planning Scheme, Section One, Review became operative.
1971 Regional Planning Scheme, Section Two - Communications, became operative.
1974 Region extended to include nine more councils, and name changed.

Many other interesting research and survey studies have been, or are about to be, initiated and some of the past work, in which the Authority has been in the forefront in New Zealand, is due for reconsideration.

8. REGIONAL MASTER PLAN

The Regional Master Plan of the Authority is expressed in general reports.

Policy No. 1 The need for an expressed written policy.

No. 2 "Sprawl". The principal need for planning in this region.

No. 3 "Master Transportation Plan". The need to interrelate urban development and communications.

No. 4 "Recreational Open Space". The need for advance earmarking of open space.

No. 5 "Control of Urban Form". The need to recognise urban and non-urban potentialities.

No. 6 "Restraints on Urbanisation". The need to examine comprehensively restrictive factors on urban development.

No. 7 "Needs of Urban Form". The need to know land requirements at various periods in the future.

No. 8 "Form and Direction of Future Urban Development". As a consequence of the foregoing, the need to determine what direction and what form urban development should take in the region.

These policy reports adopted by the Authority and confirmed by Councils during 1966 and 1967 have opened the way for detailed planning studies of the significant factors involved.

1971
Revised 1974